

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 AID-20 CIAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-15

DEAE-00 FBIE-00 DODE-00 AGR-20 COME-00 LAB-06 NSC-10

H-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /106 W

----- 102851

R 301036Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6169

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT: COMMISSION ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 160040 B. BANGKOK 13012

1. COMMISSIONERS MCGLINN AND WAGNER ARRIVED IN BANGKOK
22 AUGUST AND DEPARTED 26 AUGUST 1973. THEY SPENT ONE
DAY OF THAT TIME AT THE CONSULATE IN CHIANG MAI.

2. THE COMMISSIONERS CONFERRED WITH THE AMBASSADOR,
THE DCM, THE DIRECTOR OF USIS, AND THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT
IN SEPARATE MEETINGS. IN ADDITION, THEY ATTENDED MEETINGS
WHICH WERE ORGANIZED AROUND SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTERS
(SEE REF B) AND ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS
ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION. THEY MET THE COMMANDER OF
MACTHAI, THE DIRECTOR OF USOM, AND THE PEACE CORP DIRECTOR
IN THESE MEETINGS.

3. THE COMMISSION MET REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AMERICAN
BUSINESS/BANKING COMMUNITY AND FROM THE ROCKEFELLER AND
ASIA FOUNDATIONS AT THE LUNCH THE DCM HOSTED. THE BANGKOK
CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION MET
WITH THEM AT DINNER, GIVING MCGLINN AND WAGNER AN OPPOR-
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TUNITY TO MEET MID-CAREER AND JUNIOR FOREIGN SERVICE

OFFICERS.

4. THE MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION WERE THE FOLLOWING:

A. COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS MISSION ELEMENTS VIS-A-VIS SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS;

B. THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR; AND

C. THE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDED U.S. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES OVERSEAS.

5. THE EMBASSY PROVIDED THE COMMISSION WITH BASIC PERSONNEL STRENGTH FIGURES AND MATERIALS ON HOW THE EMBASSY IS ORGANIZED. A LIST OF THE MAJOR ELEMENTS IN THE MISSION WAS ALSO PROVIDED. WE INCLUDED A LIST OF SELECTED MISSION MEETINGS AND PARTICIPANTS TO ILLUSTRATE INTRA-MISSION COORDINATION.

6. THE COMMISSIONERS HAD A SERIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND BRIEFINGS GENERALLY STIMULATED QUESTIONS. AT THE END OF THEIR FOUR DAYS THEY PRAISED THE HIGH DEGREE OF COORDINATION EVIDENT AMONG THE ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION. MCGLINN AND WAGNER WERE ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE APPARATUS WHICH HAD DEVELOPED SINCE 1970 TO ANNUALLY ANALYZE THE USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THEY OFFERED THAT, IN THE COMMERCIAL FIELD, AN ESSENTIAL PROBLEM THAT MUST BE OVERCOME IS THE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN'S RELUCTANCE TO PRODUCE PRODUCTS DESIGNED FOR FOREIGN MARKETS. THEY FELT THAT THE FOREIGN SERVICE WILL BE CALLED UPON IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PROVIDE MORE, IF NOT BETTER STAFFED, SERVICES TO AMERICAN TOURISTS ABROAD. THEY HAVE THE IMPRESSION HOWEVER, THAT THEY DID NOT FEEL THAT A SIGNIFICANT RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS NECESSARY TO HANDLE THESE COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR PROBLEMS. THEY SOLICITED COMMENTS ABOUT PERSONNEL/CAREER PROBLEMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, BUT DID NOT EXPOSE THEIR THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT. UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO13588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973087/aaaaaemy.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 160040 B. BANGKOK 13012
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT: COMMISSION ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, OVIP, (WAGNER), (MCGLINN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005